

# FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1920.

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TO THE BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my fourteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Bourne Rural District.

It would not be true to say I submit this report with pleasure as it is a record not so much of good work done as of continued stagnation in all work pertaining to the public health of the district. For this condition of *laissez faire* your Council is perhaps less to blame than is the general unrest amongst the working population of this and other countries. The cry everywhere is for shorter hours and less work per hour whereas it would require longer hours and more output per hour to undo the havoc caused by the war and make this country once more prosperous.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The soil of the Bourne Rural District varies in character as we proceed from the eastern to the western portion according to the strata found underneath. East of the Car Dyke is fenland which consists of peat, silt and mud washed down by the various streams. To the west of the Car Dyke and embracing most of the Aslackby, Bourne and Deeping Districts, Oxford clay, with detached portions of cornbrash, predominates, whilst in the extreme west of the district—the Córby district—the strata consist chiefly of oolite and cornbrash. The former consists of a thick bed of clay which is used at Little Bytham in the manufacture of the well-known clinker bricks. The chief industry is agriculture, which finds employment for the bulk of the inhabitants.

The amount of Out-door Poor Law Relief for the year ending 31st December, 1920, was £3646/7/6. The rateable value of the whole district in land is £81,924, in buildings is £69,670, and the total assessable value is £110,659.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (census 1911) 13,391. Population (births and deaths) estimated for 1920, 12,377. Birth-rate per 1000, 25·15. Illegitimate births, 26 or 7·7 per cent. Death-rate per 1000, 14·05. Death-rate of children under 1 year per 1000, 80·3. Average birth-rate for England and Wales, 25·4. Average death-rate for England and Wales, 12·4. Average infantile death-rate for England and Wales, 80.

The number of births in 1920 was 336 (males 176, females 160), an increase of no less than 112 on last year's figures. With an estimated population of 12,377 the birth-rate in 1920 was 27·15, whereas in 1919 it was only 18·06.

The number of deaths in 1920 was 174 (males 91 and females 83), 6 fewer than in 1919. The death-rate, therefore, works out at 14·05 compared with 15·12 in 1919.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 27, an increase of 8 over the figures for 1919. The infantile death-rate in this district is therefore 80·3, practically the same as in all England.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1920 was 141 compared with 106 in 1919.

As regards the deaths in the Bourne Rural District cancer heads the list with 22 deaths distributed as follows :— 8 in the Aslackby District, 2 in the Bourne District, 6 in the Corby District and 6 in the Deeping District. For the first time in the last 14 years the hilly Corby district has furnished its proper quota of deaths from cancer. In all the previous 13 years Corby and Bourne Districts have had fewer deaths from cancer in proportion to their population than either the Aslackby or the Deeping Districts.

Organic Heart Disease comes second in the list with 19 deaths, but a great many of these occur in people over 60 years of age.

Pneumonia caused 15 deaths, many of these in the prime of life.

Tuberculosis in its various forms proved fatal in 6 cases, 3 fewer than in 1919 and 8 fewer than in 1918. They are distributed fairly evenly, viz., 1 in the Aslackby District, 2 in the Bourne District, 1 in the Corby District and 2 in the Deeping District.

Bronchitis caused 9 deaths, chiefly in children and old people.

Measles caused 6 deaths, a much greater number than usual owing to an extensive and severe epidemic.

Nephritis was the cause of 3 deaths, influenza 2 deaths, puerperal fever 2 deaths, rheumatic fever 1 death, cirrhosis of liver 1 death, 6 deaths were due to violence apart from suicide.

No deaths were due to smallpox, enteric fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, erysipelas or whooping cough. The cool summer was probably the cause of there being no deaths from diarrhoea in children under 2 years.

The zymotic death-rate, i.e., the death-rate from the 7 principal zymotic diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever and diarrhoea was 0·48 compared with 1·1 in 1919.

Of the 27 infantile deaths 3 were due to gastritis, 2 to pneumonia, 1 to measles, 1 to bronchitis and 1 to convulsions, and all the others either to premature birth or debility from birth.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

**WATER.**—A new bore has been made at Thurlby Grange, and 14 houses at Dowsby have been supplied with good drinking water by means of 2 stand-pipes in connection with the village bore.

Considering the natural resources of this district there are still too many villages with totally inadequate supplies of water. A scheme for a better supply of water for Castle Bytham has been approved but the work has never been taken in hand. Billingborough has a very fine supply of water but steps have never been taken to lay it on to the various houses. Hanthorpe, Baston and Deeping St. James derive their water supply almost entirely from shallow wells which are undoubtedly liable to pollution.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—The river Welland at Deeping St. James and the Car Dyke, more especially at Thurlby, are very much polluted with sewage. At Corby the pollution of the river Glen with sewage has, for the time being, ceased by diverting the sewage into fissures in the rock. This procedure should never have been sanctioned by your Council. Sewage disposal works should be constructed at Corby and then the effluent might be allowed with impunity to enter the Glen. The same remarks apply to the sewage entering the Car Dyke at Thurlby.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The drainage and sewerage of the district has not been improved during the past year and nuisances are constantly recurring owing to the absence or defective condition of proper drains and sewers in most of the villages. The efficient drainage and sewerage of this district, owing to its flatness, is no easy matter, but with the expenditure of brains and money the difficulties can be overcome.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION** —There are still far too many old privy vaults in this district. The constant endeavour of your officers is to have them converted into water-closets wherever possible or into pan-closets or privy-ashpits where water carriage is not feasible.

**SCAVENGING.**—No fresh scheme of scavenging for any of the villages has been adopted yet. Previous to the war a partial scheme had been tried in Billingborough and the Deepings, but this was discontinued on the score of expense. The more frequently pan-closets are erected the more necessary does a regular system of scavenging become.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**—During the past year 1170 inspections of houses have been made and special reports have been made in 18 cases. The tabulated statement in your Sanitary Inspector's report shows the various repairs to dwelling houses and other sanitary works which have been done during 1920.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.—There is one lodging house at Deeping St. James which is regularly inspected and always found clean and suitable for the purpose.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition including the water supply of most of the schools is satisfactory. There are still a few schools where good drinking water has to be brought from a distance and a few where the closet accommodation is unsatisfactory. The school at Aslackby is perhaps the most insanitary but there are indications that this will be put in order at an early date. Water has been laid on to Billingboro' school from the bore at "The Nests" belonging to Miss Woolley.

Closure of schools was resorted to in a great many cases during 1920 owing to various epidemics, viz., Aslackby, Baston, Billingboro', Dowsby, Folkingham, Horbling and Pointon schools were closed for measles. Aslackby, Billingboro', Careby, Deeping St. James, Folkingham and Swinstead schools for scarlet fever. Dowsby and Pointon schools for diphtheria. Haconby, Morton and Rippingale schools for influenza. The inspection of the various schools in this district, with a view to having any sanitary defects remedied, is an important part of your officers' duties and should be welcomed by the Education Committee of Kesteven County Council.

## FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The supply of milk in this district has been adequate and on the whole satisfactory during the past year. Dairies and cowsheds have been inspected on 110 occasions and a gradual improvement in the cleanliness of the cowsheds and the cows has been observed. 10 cowsheds have been remodelled and 3 dairies have been built. The number of registered cowsheds and dairies is 61. No action has been taken as to tuberculous milk.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER 1919.—It has not been necessary to take any action under this Order.

(b) MEAT.—(1) The slaughter-houses have been inspected very frequently during the past year and a considerable quantity of diseased meat has been condemned (see Sanitary Inspector's report). The condition of the slaughter-houses is on the whole satisfactory.

(2) No public abattoir has been established in this district. The Sanitary Inspector visits the various slaughter-houses in turn on the days for slaughter, but in a wide district such as this it is impossible for him to see all the animals at the time of slaughter, whereas with a central public abattoir this would be an easy matter and the public would benefit by receiving.

(3) No action has been taken under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

(4) Seven carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis.

The numbers of registered and of licensed slaughter-houses in 1914 and at the beginning and end of 1920 are shown in the following table :—

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered	23	23	23
Licensed	3	3	3
Total	26	26	26

- (c) OTHER FOODS.—The bakehouses of the district are regularly inspected and are usually found clean.
- (d) No cases of food poisoning in the district have been brought to my notice.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.—The notifiable infectious diseases have been unusually prevalent during 1920. The figures for the various diseases are: diphtheria 14, scarlet fever 79, erysipelas 4, pneumonia 29, malaria 1, puerperal fever 1, ophthalmia neonatorum 1, tuberculosis 12, making a total of 141 cases. Measles ceased to be notifiable, otherwise the total number of notifiable diseases would have been much larger. I think we may look forward to a period of comparative freedom from these infectious diseases, and the experience of the last few months confirms this view.

The following table shows the way in which these infectious diseases were distributed in the four sub-districts.

<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Aslackby.</i>	<i>Bourne.</i>	<i>Corby.</i>	<i>Deeping</i>
79	Scarlet Fever	...	45	10	13
14	Diphtheria	...	11	2	—
4	Erysipelas	...	1	—	1
29	Pneumonia	...	11	12	2
1	Malaria	...	—	—	1
1	Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	1
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	1
12	Tuberculosis	...	2	1	1
	Totals		70	25	20

The number of deaths from infectious diseases was 32—the figures being pneumonia 15, tuberculosis 6, puerperal fever 2, measles 6, influenza 2. No deaths occurred during 1920 from smallpox, enteric fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough. Practically all cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria were removed to Isolation Hospital and the houses disinfected. Bacteriological examinations of swabs from doubtful cases of diphtheria are paid for by your Council and antitoxin is provided free of charge.

Return cases of scarlet fever are very rare in my experience.

Measles has ceased to be a notifiable disease and no reliable figures are therefore available but it was very prevalent and was the cause of 6 deaths.

Cases of tuberculosis are seldom notified until they have reached an advanced stage. Now that the County Council is responsible for the institutional treatment of these cases it is to be hoped that better provision will be made for the care of these victims of civilization. First and foremost amongst the causes of tuberculosis is the sanitary condition of the homes and workshops of the people. Ill-ventilated, overcrowded damp dwellings act as a forcing house for the germs of tuberculosis. Couple these conditions with unsuitable or insufficient food and the alcohol habit and you have the soil rendered favourable for the development and spread of this poison. The provision of suitable houses for the working population and the gradual closure of the insanitary houses as the former become accomplished facts should be kept steadily in view by every District and Parish Council in the land. Elementary hygiene should be taught in every school and then each boy and girl would become a budding sanitary inspector. Nothing would escape their keen vision. The worst offenders against the laws of health in a village might then be held up to public censure.

There is no suitable provision made as yet for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons. This is an important matter which ought to receive more serious attention. If facilities were provided I feel sure there would be more co-operation between the masters of our schools and the Sanitary Authorities to stamp out this loathsome disease which affects in varying degrees such a large proportion of young children. The real difficulty is how to deal with the dirty, lazy mother who will take no trouble to keep her children clean.

SMALLPOX. - No primary vaccinations and no re-vaccinations have been performed by your Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A maternity and child welfare centre has been in operation during the whole of last year where the mothers and children are seen fortnightly by the Medical Officers of Health for the Urban and Rural districts. At these meetings advice is given to the mothers how to look after their own health during and after pregnancy and how to rear their children. More and more interest is being taken by the ladies of the town and district in the work of these centres.

A case of puerperal fever occurred and proved fatal during 1920. One case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred, it affected both eyes but they recovered satisfactorily. Measles and whooping cough were very prevalent. Epidemic diarrhoea and poliomyelitis were conspicuous by their absence.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. STAFF consists of one Sanitary Inspector, one Health Visitor for Bourne and part of the Rural District who devotes her whole time to the mothers and babies and school children, in addition to assisting at the school clinics and maternity and child welfare centre. Her services are very much appreciated. In the remaining portion of the Rural District the duty of looking after the mothers and young children is undertaken by the district nurses.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION for cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever and tuberculosis is provided in the Isolation Hospital, situated at the southern extremity of Bourne parish. It was built in 1915 and has been a boon to the district ever since. A highly-trained matron and three nurses find their time fully occupied in looking after the cases admitted.

Six beds are set apart for cases of tuberculosis and these are always occupied. In addition to these tuberculosis cases there were 83 cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria treated in this hospital during 1920.

A site for a smallpox hospital has been secured but no building has been erected. Chemical and bacteriological work is usually sent to the Clinical Research Association.

## HOUSING.

### I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

- (1) General Housing Conditions. The housing conditions in the Bourne Rural District vary considerably in the different villages. In the larger villages such as Billingsboro,' Morton, Corby, Castle Bytham, and Deeping St. James there is a good deal of slum property which ought to be closed as soon as new houses are built for the displaced tenants. Some of the smaller villages, on the other hand, leave very little to be desired—the houses are good in themselves and the occupiers take a pride in them.
- (2) (a) A real shortage of suitable houses for the working class exists in nearly every village and an excess of houses exists nowhere in the district.  
(b) A scheme for building 180 houses was adopted by your Council, but owing to the cost and the difficulty of obtaining labour and building materials, only 2 new houses had been built and occupied by 31st December, 1920! True it is, other 8 houses were in course of erection during 1920.
- (3) It is not likely that any important changes in the population will take place in the near future.

## II.—OVERCROWDING.

- (1) There is a good deal of overcrowding.
- (2) Small size of many houses renders them unfit for a family, and the shortage of houses leads, in other cases, to two families living in one house.
- (3) At the present time, owing to impossibility of providing larger houses, we try to prevent gross overcrowding by insisting on some of the inmates sleeping with relatives who are more fortunately situated in that respect.
- (4) In two cases the overcrowding was only detected when scarlet fever attacked several of the inmates. These were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the situation was relieved temporarily at least. In another case where tuberculosis attacked one of the children the whole family was removed to the Workhouse until they found a larger house in another district.

## III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1) (a) See under I (1).
  - (b) The usual defects found in unfit houses are dilapidated roofs and floors, insufficient light and ventilation, absence of suitable places for storing of food, damp walls owing to absence of damp courses and concrete foundations. In many cases the ground floor of the house is below the level of the adjoining ground. Insanitary privy vaults and defective drainage are frequent.
  - (c) In a great many cases the owners have neither the means nor the inclination to remedy the defects.
- (2) (a) Most of the improvements effected have been done under the Public Health Acts.
- (3) Undoubtedly great difficulties have been encountered in remedying unfitness, but the vigilant eye of your Inspector and his perseverance have effected a good many improvements in house property in this district. Where an owner shows a disposition to remedy defects your Council is always willing to grant an extension of time. There are practically no back-to-back houses in the district.
- (4) Most houses have a water supply of a kind but the surroundings are frequently such as to render it unsuitable for drinking.

Closet accommodation is still too frequently of the privy vault description, and refuse disposal is usually left to take care of itself until your inspector interferes.

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No action has been taken in regard to unhealthy areas, under Part I or Part II of the Housing Act of 1890.

V.—BYE-LAWS relating to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c. :—

The existing bye-laws seem to be sufficient for the purpose.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Bourne,*

*18th June, 1921.*

# APPENDICES.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS — YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

### 1. GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	12,377
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	14
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	0·48
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	80
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	3,318
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	3 239
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	2

### 2. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

#### I. — INSPECTIONS.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	1170
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	18
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	12
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	6

#### II. — REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	None
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#### III. — ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

##### A Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919:

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	15
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	...	...	...	5
	(a) by owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	Nil

## B Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied - (a) By owners	...	...	...	50
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				Nil

## C Proceedings under Section 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	18
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	12
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	2

## 3. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part I or (b) Part II of the Act of 1890 :

(1) Name of Area	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Acreage	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	...	...	...	Nil

4

Number of houses not yet complying with the building bye-laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	...	...	...	Nil
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5

Staff engaged on housing work :

1 Surveyor and Architect.  
1 Clerk of Works.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bourne,  
June, 1921.

# Bourne Rural District Council.

## *Report of the Inspector of Nuisances*

For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOURNE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Ninth Annual Report.

Unfortunately, at the close of this year, things in the commercial world are anything but satisfactory, and the hopes which were forecasted in my last Annual Report have not been brought to fruition.

In spite of the high prices prevailing for building material, many owners of property have endeavoured to obtain same, but without success, consequently sanitary improvements have suffered. Skilled labour in the building trade is another great drawback to sanitary improvement, there is so much work to do and so few to do it. The reason of this is the tempting high wages given in the larger townships, hence the lack of skilled labour in rural areas.

I am pleased to say that in spite of our difficulties, your Council can report progress as the tabulated particulars will reveal, under the heading of sanitary works executed.

A great improvement has been made in the Parish of Dowsby, a tap supply of water for drinking purposes which affects 14 cottages. This is a great convenience, all the recipients expressing their gratitude, and I believe all other cottagers would be grateful for a similar privilege. There is no parish in your District but what could be supplied with a pure and wholesome supply of good drinking water.

I must also call your attention to the fact that during the year 53 new drains have been inserted and other defective drains remedied, these will be a great improvement to the various houses.

Your Council has not dealt with any new sewers during the year, although Thurlby sewer outfall has been considered. Market Deeping sewer is still left in abeyance, also Billingborough. Your Council must take this matter up seriously in the near future, because good sewerage means good health.

The Food Inspection department has received attention and as the tabulated particulars show, a large amount of meat condemned as unfit for the food of man and destroyed.

The year 1920 closes without seeing the Scavenging machinery re-established.

There has been nothing done to deal with Sewage affluents re the treatment of same.

Public Water Supplies have been considered and maybe the year 1921 will see Baston and other Parishes installed with a public supply.

We look forward now to greater things in 1921, and given building materials and labour in abundance, we hope to report greater progress.

The following are the Inspections and Visits made during the year ending December 31st, 1920 :--

House Inspections .. ..	1170
House-to-House Inspections (Special Report) .. ..	18
Works in progress (visits thereto) .. ..	81
Slaughterhouses Inspected .. ..	163
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected .. ..	110
Workshops, &c. Inspected .. ..	193
Schools Inspected .. ..	14
Petrol Stores Inspected .. ..	5
Common Lodging Houses Inspected .. ..	4
Visits on account of Infectious Diseases .. ..	51
Appointments and Interviews .. ..	128
Total Number of Inspections for the Year	1937

The following are the Sanitary Works executed during the year ending December 31st, 1920 :—

New Roofs .. ..	4
Roofs repaired .. ..	7
Floors repaired .. ..	2
Houses provided with Earthenware Sinks .. ..	1
New W.C.'s inserted .. ..	2
Rooms provided with Light and Ventilation .. ..	2
Yards paved .. ..	3
New Kitchens erected .. ..	1
New Pantries erected .. ..	1
Schools disinfected .. ..	4
Houses disinfected .. ..	51
New Drains inserted .. ..	53
Old Drains remedied .. ..	3
New Inspection Chambers built .. ..	6
New Disconnection Chambers built .. ..	8
New Urinals built .. ..	1
New Fresh Air Inlets inserted .. ..	6
New Vent Shafts erected .. ..	6
New Septic Tanks built .. ..	5
New Filters built .. ..	5
Privy Vault Closets abolished .. ..	3
Privy Closets converted to W.C.s .. ..	1
New Pan Closets erected .. ..	6
Offensive Accumulations removed .. ..	3
New Ashpits erected .. ..	1
Wash-houses repaired .. ..	3
New Stables erected .. ..	2
New Motor Houses erected .. ..	1
Houses supplied with Water (Tap) .. ..	14
Schools supplied with Water (Tap) .. ..	1
Farmsteads supplied with Water (Bore) .. ..	1
Cowsheds remodelled .. ..	10
New Dairies erected .. ..	3
New Coolers erected .. ..	1
Total .. ..	221

## FOOD INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

This part of your Health Department has received due supervision, and as meat is an important article of diet, it is absolutely necessary that it should be sold in a sound condition. In this wide Rural area with Slaughter-houses scattered over 78,000 acres, it is difficult to be in all Slaughter-houses at slaughtering time. I should be glad to see a move made to have one slaughtering centre, then we should be more ensured that all meat was properly examined before exposure for sale for the food of man.

The following is a list of unsound meat condemned and destroyed for the year 1920 :—

	Tuberculous Beef	..	..	..	3,030 lbs.
	Decomposed	..	..	..	4,310 "
	Emaciated	..	..	..	300 "
	Dropsical	..	..	..	590 "
	Maribund	..	..	..	560 "
	Bruised	..	..	..	56 "
	Fevered	..	..	..	672 "
	Frozen	..	..	..	220 "
				Total	10,138
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VEAL.	CONDEMNED.—Sour Veal	..	..	..	228 lbs.
	With Scours	..	..	..	220 "
				Total	448
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MUTTON	CONDEMNED.—Decomposed Mutton	..	..	..	480 lbs.
	Hydraemic	..	..	..	360 "
	Emaciated	..	..	..	180 "
	Dropsical	..	..	..	170 "
				Total	1,190
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PORK	CONDEMNED.—Decomposed Pork	..	..	..	105 lbs.
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OFFALS	CONDEMNED.—Beasts' Heads	..	..	..	6
	„ Livers	..	..	..	2
	Pigs' Lungs	..	..	..	3
	Sheeps' Offals	..	..	..	22
	Calves' „	..	..	..	2
	Pigs' „	..	..	..	2
	Beasts' „	..	..	..	20
				Total	57
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SUMMARY.	Beef Condemned	..	..	..	10,138 lbs.
	Veal	..	..	..	448 "
	Mutton	..	..	..	1,190 "
	Pork	..	..	..	105 "
				Total	11,881

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Council, Medical Officer of Health, and all other officials for their courtesy and support in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ROSS,

Inspector.

